CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HUNGARY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ADOPTED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WARSAW TREATY, HELD IN BUDAPEST ON 25 FEBRUARY 1991

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Statement adopted at the Special Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty, held in Budapest on 25 February 1991.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter and the attached statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Tibor Tóth)
Ambassador

STATEMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WARSAW TREATY

The countries of Europe are liberating themselves from the legacy of the past, of the era of confrontation and division of the continent. The Charter of Paris has opened an era of democracy, peace and unity in Europe. The participating States of the all-European process build friendly relations, in respect of the Ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act and on the basis of their common commitment to democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

The 22 States, signatories of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, have stated in their Joint Declaration that they no longer consider each other as adversaries and will build new relations of partnership and co-operation. It was confirmed that every State has the right to belong or not to belong to a treaty of alliance. The end of the division of Europe provides an historical opportunity to give a new quality to relations in the field of security, while fully respecting the freedom of choice of States.

Bearing in mind the fundamental changes in Europe, and implementing the decision of the PCC's session in Moscow on 7 June 1990, the member States of the Warsaw Treaty have decided, acting as sovereign and equal States, to dismantle the military organs and structures of the Treaty by 31 March 1991.

The participants of the session stated that the decision is destined to contribute to the further reduction of military potentials in Europe and to the transition from security structures based on blocs to all-European structures in the spirit of the CSCE Paris Summit accords. They expressed their resolve to ensure, through joint efforts, dynamic progress towards the objectives set at the Paris meeting.

In the new situation, the States represented at the session will actively shift the development of their relations onto a bilateral basis. This will correspond to their mutual interest in constructive and friendly relations, as well as to the new European realities.

The participants of the session stressed that the full implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Vienna document on confidence-building measures, constitutes an important pre-condition for strengthening stability and security on the continent and for the further development of the Helsinki process.